

Appl. No. 10/707,274

Reply to Office Action Mailed 07-06-2006

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REMARKS

Claims 31-37 are pending in the present application. Claim 61 has been added. Claims 31-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), as being anticipated by Chen, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,933,726). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection based on Chen.

In the Non-Final Office Action, FIGS. 2, 3 and 8 are noted as disclosing a sleeve and an electrode having an external section that is larger than a base section, the external section positioned proximate the outer surface. With reference to FIG. 8 of the cited Chen reference, Applicants further note that item 52 is a contact assembly 52 that is positioned beneath the sleeve 11 and apparently within a hole or channel in spacer 54, bobbin 50, and/or contact spacer 53. Such a hole or channel is not formed through the sleeve 11. The "inner surface" of the sleeve 11 appears to be facing the interface 61; so, any "hole formed through the sleeve" terminates at the interface 61, which is above the contact assembly 52. Thus, the contact assembly 52 is not disposed within a hole formed through the sleeve.

Accordingly, FIG. 8 does not teach or suggest an electrode (having a base section and an external section) that is disposed within a hole formed through the sleeve, as required by claim 31.

In any event, independent claim 31 has been amended to further highlight the Applicants' contribution to the art and to distinguish the claimed invention from the cited Chen reference. Specifically, independent claim 31 has been amended to further recite an electrode disposed within a hole formed through the sleeve between the outer surface (of the sleeve) and the inner surface (of the sleeve) and adapted to conductively connect to the mandrel. Further, the base section is recited as being disposed within the hole proximate the inner surface of the sleeve.

Accordingly, independent claim 31 and dependent claims 33-37 and new dependent claim 61 are not anticipated, nor obvious in view of, the cited Chen reference.

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the application to issue.

A Petition for an Extension of Time for 3-Months is attached hereto. If another appropriate Petition is required, this statement shall serve as Applicants' Petition to the USPTO. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments related to this Response to Deposit Account No. 190610 (20.2894US), maintained by Schlumberger Technology Corporation.

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The undersigned is available for consultation at any time, if the Examiner believes such consultation may expedite the resolution of any issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

02/04/07

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